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ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

From the outbreak of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, the United Nations Security Council, through its relevant resolutions, has been actively pursuing the achieving of a lasting peace settlement of the crisis. The General Assembly has also contributed to this effort, notably by adopting two resolutions, at its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions (46/242 of 25 August 1992 and 47/121 of 18 December 1992, respectively), on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this concerted effort of the United Nations major significance has been attached to a whole array of preventive and enforcement measures, adopted by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, including the imposition of wide-ranging trade and economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

The implementation of these sanctions has undeniably had a significant positive effect, facilitating the efforts of the international community to contribute to a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the conflict based on the principles spelt out in the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. Acknowledging their utmost importance, the States neighbouring the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), as well as other States from the region, have rightly perceived their primary and indispensable responsibility in assuring the strict application of those provisions of Security Council resolutions 757 (1992), 787 (1992) and 820 (1993) which introduce restrictions on and/or interruption of trade and economic relations and communications with and through the FRY.

By introducing the necessary internal legal and administrative measures to implement fully the provisions of the above resolutions, these countries have made an invaluable contribution to the concerted action of the United Nations, despite their heavy adverse effect on their national economies. This contribution has been recognized by the Security Council and a number of individual States concerned have been commended by the Council, by decision of its Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia, for the measures they have taken to comply with its resolutions (S/26040 and Add.1).

The application of such a comprehensive and strict set of trade and economic sanctions has placed an extraordinary burden on these States, given the combination of a number of factors. One of them is the specific key geographical situation of the area under sanctions in terms of the existing transport infrastructure and communication links of eastern and south-eastern Europe with the rest of the continent. Another is the precarious economic situation of most of these States in a period of major political, economic and social transition to democracy and a market economy, which has been seriously affected by the heavy economic losses sustained as a result of the implementation of the sanctions. An additional element is the direct financial expense these States incur as a result of putting into operation and maintaining an elaborate administrative system of monitoring and control over the strict implementation of the sanctions by virtue of their geographical adjacency to the FRY.

The effect of the above factors on the economic situation of the neighbouring States and other States from the region has already produced grave negative consequences of far-reaching character for their economic development. In some of them, which are especially vulnerable owing to their specific geographic situation and/or the overall state of their economies, this effect has already jeopardized political and social stability.

In the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, and most notably in the spirit of its Article 49, it is a moral, political and legal obligation of all Member States to join in affording mutual assistance in carrying out the measures decided upon by the Security Council. It is therefore of utmost importance for the States adversely affected by the trade and economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to have their problems addressed positively by the international community, before the United Nations General Assembly, and to receive urgent and highly needed economic assistance, through the appropriate channels, in order to help them overcome their grave economic difficulties.

Given the exclusively economic nature of the problems experienced by this group of States in applying the trade and economic sanctions against the FRY, and the fact that the deliberations on the issue are without any prejudice to the efforts of the United Nations to achieve a peaceful and lasting political solution to the Yugoslav crisis, it is proposed that the additional agenda item, entitled "Economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)", if included in the agenda of the forty-eighth session by the General Assembly as requested, be allocated to the Second Committee.



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/240
28 October 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Forty-eighth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM
IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI

Letter dated 27 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of
Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to request the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of an additional item entitled "The situation in Burundi".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution are annexed to this letter. It is hoped that this item will be allocated to the plenary Assembly.

(Signed) Thérance SINUNGURUZA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Explanatory memorandum

1. The international community will recall that on 1 June 1993 Presidential elections which were deemed to be properly and honestly conducted brought President Melchior Ndadaye to power. On 29 June 1993, legislative elections set up a National Assembly. On 10 July 1993, the President of the Republic was officially installed in office.
2. Burundi was thus one of the rare countries in Africa to embark on an exemplary transition to democracy.
3. Unfortunately, this democratic momentum has just been interrupted. On 21 October 1993, a group of soldiers, fearing neither God nor man, took the Presidential palace and the residences of some of Burundi's political leaders by storm.
4. During this putsch, the Head of State was assassinated, as were the President and Vice-President of the National Assembly. This left a political vacuum at the head of the State. The Minister of the Interior and the Director-General of National Documentation and Migration were also executed. The surviving members of the democratic Government escaped just in time by finding refuge in places inaccessible to the perpetrators of the putsch.
5. As a consequence of this state of affairs, the population has risen up and the old demons of ethnic division have been aroused, the demons which were believed to have been buried for ever in the dustbin of history. At a time when violence is currently ravaging the countryside of Burundi, the population is seeking refuge in the towns in insalubrious and precarious shelters, while many are seeking exile in neighbouring countries. The number of these displaced persons and refugees is estimated at more than 300,000.
6. According to current information, the violence is continuing and, if nothing is done to stop it, the country runs the risk of plunging into civil war with incalculable consequences for peace and international security.
7. The international community has unanimously denounced the putsch. The Security Council has just strongly condemned the coup d'état of 21 October 1993 and demanded a rapid return to constitutional order. 1/
8. It is essential that the General Assembly react quickly to this disturbing and illegal situation by associating itself with the people of Burundi in the tragedy caused by the putsch. At the same time, it should, as a matter of urgency, request the international community to intervene to restore the functioning of, and protect, the democratic institutions and provide emergency humanitarian assistance to Burundi.

1/ See S/26631.

APPENDIX

Draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question entitled "The situation in Burundi",

Deeply concerned by the military coup d'état which took place in Burundi on 21 October 1993 and which has resulted in a brutal and violent interruption of the democratic process,

Distressed at the cowardly assassination of the President of the Republic and other political leaders,

Seriously disturbed by the tragic consequences of the coup d'état which is plunging Burundi into violence and causing loss of life and mass displacement of the population,

1. Unreservedly condemns the coup which has checked the democratic process initiated in Burundi;
2. Demands that the perpetrators of the putsch put down their arms and return to their barracks;
3. Considers that those responsible for the events which have taken place in Burundi since 21 October 1993 should be brought to justice;
4. Supports the efforts being made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the countries of the region to promote a return to constitutional order in Burundi;
5. Requests the States Members of the United Nations, international organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide emergency humanitarian assistance and/or any other assistance to Burundi;
6. Decides to remain seized of the matter until a solution to the crisis is found.
